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**Helpful Resources**

**Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission**  
[myfwc.com](http://myfwc.com)  
Report a wildlife violation 1-888-404-FWCC  
Report catches of tagged fish 1-800-367-4461  
Fish Kill Hotline 1-800-636-0511  
Reporting oil spills 1-800-320-0519  
Report a dead or injured sea turtle or manatee 1-800-404-FWCC  
To report by most cellular phones #FCC or \*FCC

**Fishing Licenses 1-800-FISH-FLORIDA**  
[www.wildlifelicense.com/fl](http://www.wildlifelicense.com/fl)

**Florida Fish and Wildlife Research Institute**  
For information on Florida's marine resources and research 727-896-8626

**U.S. Coast Guard 813-824-7638**  
[www.uscg.mil](http://www.uscg.mil)

**Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515**

**COMMITTEE ON RULES  
COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET**

**Sportsmen's Legislation, cont.**

and wildlife agencies. These state programs give private landowners a financial incentive for providing hunting and fishing access to their property while protecting them from liability and property damage. It also encourages landowners to improve the fish and wildlife habitat on their property. These programs are extremely popular with landowners and with sportsmen, but a lack of financial resources means that many states are unable to take advantage of the offers by private landowners to enroll in their access programs.

The **National Aquatic Invasive Species Act of 2005** would reauthorize, strengthen, and expand the National Invasive Species Act of 1996. Many aquatic invaders enter through ballast water of ships, and this legislation establishes a mandatory ballast water management program for all commercial vessels operating in U.S. waters. It also adds a ballast water treatment technology certification program for ship owners to install treatment technology. In addition, it will require screening of planned importations of live aquatic organisms and establishes a national monitoring network for detecting new invasions, a rapid response fund, and state and regional grants for combating invasive species.

The **National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Reauthorization Act** would reauthorize appropriations for the foundation through FY 2010. It would also limit congressional notice requirements for foundation grants to federal funding grants greater than \$10,000, and authorizes the use of federal funds to match contributions made to foundation grant recipients.

These bills are among some of the important pieces of legislation concerning a variety of issues affecting our great outdoors. From reauthorization of critical programs to helping state and local governments meet their outdoor needs, rest assured I will carefully review these and other pieces of legislation

affecting the many natural resources abundant in Florida and across the nation.

I grew up hunting and fishing in central Florida and have recognized that as a Representative, and now Co-Chairman of the Congressional Sportsmen's Caucus, I have a tremendous opportunity to advocate these traditions in the halls of Congress. I look forward to working with my fellow sportsmen on Capitol Hill to advance the interests of men, women and youth who continue to practice the time honored American tradition of enjoying the outdoors.



*The Sportfishing and Boating Equity Act of 2005 would direct the full excise tax on motor boat fuel to be reinvested in the preservation and restoration of our waterways.*

*Adam H. Putnam*  
M.C.  
Presorted Standard



**Boating & Fishing Legislative Update**

for Florida's 12th Congressional District  
Summer, 2005

**Congressman Putnam Named Co-Chairman of Legislative Sporting Organization**

Congressman Putnam was named Co-Chairman of the Congressional Sportsmen's Caucus (CSC) in January, 2005.

The CSC stands strong in support of hunting, fishing and conservation. More than half of the members of the United States Congress, representing nearly every state, are affiliated with the Caucus, providing a strong coalition within Congress to help protect every American's right to enjoy our beautiful outdoors.

There are many pieces of legislation before the 109th Congress affecting the great natural resources abundant in Florida and across the nation. These bills range from changes in oceans, fisheries, and aquaculture policies to forest preservation and species control. Because water and water-related activities are so critical to Florida, I have outlined several pieces of water-related legislation below.

An important piece of oceans policy legislation is the **Magnuson-Stevens Act**, which governs the conservation and management of ocean fishing and fishery resources in federally governed waters. Originally passed in 1976, this bill has been amended several times to help prevent overfishing, allow overfished stocks to recover, maintain optimum yield, and to

conserve and manage fishery resources. Possible areas of legislative changes during this session of Congress could include overcapitalization of fisheries, cooperative research, individual fishing quotas (IFQs), interactions between fisheries and marine mammals, ecosystem-based management, among others.

The **Sportfishing and Boating Equity Act** would significantly improve funding for fishing and boating by ensuring that the full 18.3 cents boaters and sportsmen pay in excise tax for motor boat fuel go to the Aquatic Resource Trust Fund, which is used to fund state boating safety programs, state fisheries conservation programs, and state boating access programs. Currently, 4.8 cents out of the 18.3 cents per gallon tax on motor boat fuel has been withheld by the Treasury. This legislation, which I co-sponsored, would ensure that all tax revenue from motorboat fuels goes into the Aquatic Resource Trust Fund. This would amount to an additional \$110 million per year to be reinvested in the preservation and restoration of our waterways.

The **Voluntary Public Access and Habitat Incentive Program Act**, also known as the "Open Fields" bill, would provide federal funding to support voluntary, incentive-based walk-in access programs administered by state fish

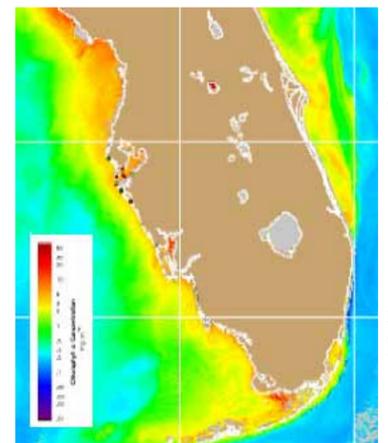


*Congressman Putnam joined with other leaders and members of the sporting community to engage in and discuss the issues and concerns of anglers across the country.*

*continued, page 4*

**Critical Discovery In Red Tide May Make Seafood Safer**

A new collaborative study conducted in part by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) reveals important information about the impact of red tide on human seafood consumption. Most notably, this study found *genetic differences*



*Possible harmful alga blooms are shown throughout Florida's West Coast on March 23, 2005.*

*within the same species of shellfish* affecting their resistance to poisoning during red tide blooms. This discovery may help lead the way to breed safer shellfish stocks, making human consumption of certain types of seafood safer.

Red tide outbreaks, referred to as blooms, occur when higher-than-normal concentrations of microscopic alga are present in a body of water. These blooms sometimes discolor the water in shades of red, green, brown, even purple, and sometimes do not change the water color at all. One of the most significant impacts of red tide blooms is its poisoning of certain types of shellfish, which occurs when shellfish feed on toxic algae found during red tide outbreaks. During these outbreaks, the shellfish can accumulate

such high concentrations of toxins that paralysis is caused due to the halt in flow of nerve impulses within their nervous system. Humans who consume affected shellfish can suffer from these paralytic effects, as well as develop flu-like symptoms. In fact, data shows that visits for respiratory problems in coastal communities during red tide can increase over 50% compared to when red tide is absent. What's more, there is currently no antidote for paralytic shellfish poisoning, and all cases require immediate medical attention.

While scientists have long known that different shellfish species vary in their resistance and accumulation of toxins, this study marks the first time that scientists discovered a genetic change that causes toxin resistance *within the same species*. This discovery of genetic differences within softshell clams may very well help scientists selectively breed shellfish that will reduce poisoning incidents among shellfish and humans.

Please note that only certain types of seafood are affected by this poisoning, including filter-feeding shellfish such as quahogs, soft-shell clams, oysters, mussels and scallops. Lobsters, crabs, shrimp, and scallops do not accumulate toxin and are safe to eat from affected waters.

For more information on this study and red tide research, please visit [www.noaa.gov](http://www.noaa.gov).

# Major Fishing Destinations



Special Thanks to the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, Fish and Wildlife Research Institute and the Tampa Bay Estuary Program for use of this map.



Congressman Adam Putnam Sponsors a Boat Safety Seminar in cooperation with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the National Weather Service (NWS)



## TUESDAY, JUNE 28 AT 7PM Brandon Elks Lodge, 800 Centennial Drive, Brandon

Learn more about the federal government's leadership and efforts on boating issues, including navigational charting, tide & water levels, on-demand electronic charts, weather, and more.

Seating is limited, please contact my District Office at 863.534.3530 for more information.

### Commission Helps Direct New National Oceans Policy

The Congressionally-chartered U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy released its report, titled "An Ocean Blueprint for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century," in December of 2004, marking the single most comprehensive review of our oceans in 35 years. After hearing from 440 presenters at 15 public meetings in 10 cities over 11 months, the Commission made numerous recommendations to the federal government on an improved, coordinated and comprehensive national oceans policy.

As you know, oceans are an integral part of our state and nation's history, culture and economy. In addition to providing for over sixty million American jobs, oceans are a critical source of food, commerce, energy, recreational opportunities and more. More than half of our nation's GDP is directly tied to ocean and coastal economies, and more than two billion tons of domestic and international freight move through U.S. ports every year. In short, our oceans provide an invaluable and critical resource to the United States, and helping to ensure their sustainment is an important responsibility of Congress.

The Commission's report and recommendations are guided by the principles of making certain that our oceans are clean, safe, sustainably managed, and preserved for the benefit and enjoyment of future generations. Their policy recommendations cover a broad

range of issues, from ocean governance to the stewardship of marine resources, and from pollution prevention to enhancing and supporting marine science, commerce and transportation.

The Commission presented over 200 recommendations throughout its report, including three critical actions imperative to the oceans. First, a new national oceans policy framework must be established to improve federal coordination and effectiveness, and strengthen support for state, territorial, tribal, and local efforts to identify and resolve issues at the regional level. Second, decisions about ocean and coastal resources should be based on the most current, credible, and unbiased scientific data and information. Finally, formal and informal ocean education should be strengthened to better engage the general public, cultivate a broad stewardship ethic, and prepare a new generation of leaders to meet future ocean policy challenges.

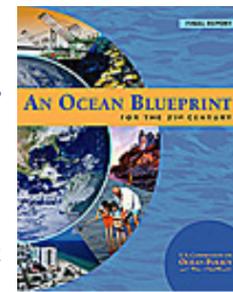
Implementation of the Commission's recommendations could

help create a system that sustains natural resources and generates significantly greater benefits for the nation. In fact, these improvements can help protect the ocean environment, create jobs, increase revenues, enhance security, expand trade, and ensure ample supplies of energy, minerals, food, and life-saving drugs.

The 109th Congress will undoubtedly review and debate changes to oceans policy in response to these recommendations. It is anticipated that key House and Senate committees with interest and jurisdiction over ocean affairs will hold hearings on related aspects of the commission report, and examine the existing legislative and regulatory structure to identify inconsistencies, duplication, and gaps among agencies' authorities. I will be sure to carefully monitor

the discussions and policy changes recommended by the Commission throughout this process.

If you would like to read a copy of "An Ocean Blueprint for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century" in full, please visit [www.oceancommission.gov](http://www.oceancommission.gov).



The U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy released "An Ocean Blueprint for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century," in December, 2004.

### Creating Jobs in the Recreational Boating Industry

The Recreational Marine Employment Act was recently introduced and will help create jobs in the recreational boating industry, some of which have been lost to foreign competition overseas.

As a cosponsor of this bill, along with nine other members of the Florida delegation, I am pleased to report that this legislation will help save small boat-building businesses

thousands of dollars by clarifying that they do not need to purchase expensive and duplicative Longshore insurance. Due to unnecessarily high insurance costs, the American boat-building jobs, including many in Florida, have been hurt, and in some cases jobs have been lost overseas. This bill will lower insurance costs, bringing more business

to Florida's boat manufacturers, and helping to create new jobs. Small businesses within the industry overwhelmingly report they will use the money saved to help hire new workers and grow their businesses.

I look forward to its consideration on the House Floor, bringing help to many small businesses within the boating industry here in Florida and across the nation.